

SAUDI ARABIA | IN FOCUS

A WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF THE INFORMATION OFFICE OF
THE ROYAL EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA IN WASHINGTON, DC

MAY 10, 2011

FOREIGN RELATIONS

King Abdullah receives Yemeni, Pakistani officials

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz received a message on May 7 from Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari. The message was delivered by visiting Pakistani Interior Minister Rehman Malik during an audience at the King's palace in Riyadh.

Two days later, King Abdullah welcomed visiting Yemeni Prime Minister Dr. Ali Mujawar and Foreign Minister Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi, who delivered a message to the King from Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Both audiences were attended by Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal; Chief of General Intelligence Prince Muqrin bin Abdulaziz; Secretary General of the National Security Council Prince Bandar bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz; Commander of the National Guard Prince Miteb bin Abdullah bin Abdulaziz; and Advisor to the King Prince Abdulaziz bin Abdullah bin Abdulaziz.

GCC Interior Ministers hold Consultative Meeting in Abu Dhabi

The Interior Ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states held their 12th Consultative Meeting in Abu Dhabi on May 3, presided over by UAE Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Lt. Gen. Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al-Nahyan. The Kingdom's delegation was led by Deputy Minister of Interior Prince Ahmed bin Abdulaziz.

The meeting focused on the latest developments in the Arab world and ways in which joint GCC security cooperation can address these issues.

SAUDI ARABIA-U.S. RELATIONS

Chief of General Staff meets U.S. National War College delegation

The Chief of the General Staff, Gen. Saleh bin Ali Al-Mohayya, received in Riyadh on May 10 a delegation from the American National War College (NWC), comprised of members of the teaching staff as well as student officers. During the meeting, the two sides had a cordial exchange and discussed a number of topics of common interest. The delegation also met with the Deputy Chief of the General Staff, Lt. Gen. Hussein bin Abdullah Al-Qabeel.

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SAUDI ARABIA

Cabinet approves creation of National Anti-Corruption Commission

The Cabinet has approved the establishment of a National Anti-Corruption Commission. The aims of the Commission are to uphold integrity, to promote the principle of transparency, and to fight against financial and administrative corruption in all. Its duties will include:

- Following up on the implementation of orders relating to the public interest to ensure compliance
- Investigating aspects of financial and administrative corruption in public works and the operation and maintenance of public contracts at the departments included within the Commission's specialization
- Providing direct channels of communication with the public to receive their reports of corruption, verify the facts,, and take the appropriate measures
- Referring violations and transgressions concerning financial and administrative corruption when they are discovered to investigative departments
- Following up with the relevant authorities to retrieve the funds and proceeds from crimes of corruption

EMBASSY FUNCTION

Saudi Embassy to participate in Passport DC

On Saturday, May 14, the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia will open its doors to offer cultural and educational activities to the general public as part of the annual Passport DC Around the World Embassy Tour. Last year, more than 1,000 people attended the event.

From 10am until 4pm, visitors will have the opportunity to experience Saudi culture through a variety of activities, exhibits and performances, including folkloric dancing, a fashion show and a slide show. Guests can get their pictures taken in traditional Saudi clothing, have their hands decorated with henna and receive cards with their names written in Arabic calligraphy. A traditional lunch will be served from 12pm to 2pm, while Saudi coffee and dates will be available all day.

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FOREIGN RELATIONS

GCC leaders hold 13th Consultative Meeting

Under the chairmanship of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, the leaders and heads of delegations of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states held their 13th Consultative Meeting at Dir'lya Palace in Riyadh on May 10.

In a press statement released after the meeting, GCC Secretary General Abdul Latif Al-Zayani said the delegates fully sided with Bahrain in its efforts to restore security and vowed to unite to face any threat to a GCC country. They supported the entry into Bahrain of the joint Peninsula Shield Force and praised the decision of the Bahraini government to lift the state of emergency on June 1. The leaders expressed profound concern about the continual Iranian interference into the domestic affairs of GCC countries. They accused Iran of inciting sedition, sectarianism and conspiracy within societies to the detriment of national security, in flagrant violation of the principles of sovereignty, neighborliness and international norms and laws.

Saudi Foreign Minister visits leaders of Egypt and Jordan

Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal was received by Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Egyptian Armed Forces Field Marshal Mohammed Hussein Tantawi in Cairo on May 11. During their meeting, they discussed boosting bilateral relations and reviewed the latest developments in the region. The session was also attended by Saudi Minister of Finance Dr. Ibrahim Al-Assaf. Following that meeting, Prince Saud traveled to Amman, where he was received by King Abdullah II of Jordan. According to a Jordanian statement, Prince Saud and the King discussed bilateral cooperation in a variety of fields and relations between Jordan and the Gulf Arab States.

Saudi diplomat killed in Karachi

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has expressed its strong condemnation of the assassination of a Saudi diplomat in Pakistan on May 16. The victim, Hassan Misfer Al-Qahtani, was driving to work at the Saudi Consulate General in Karachi when armed men on motorbikes fired into his car. On May 11, the Consulate was attacked by men throwing grenades, but no injuries occurred during that incident. The Saudi Foreign Ministry is following up with Pakistani security